



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Savannah District

News Release

Release No: 05-20

May 20, 2005

Eco-Meet Hosted by Corps for Students

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SAVANNAH, Ga. – The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers' J. Strom Thurmond Dam and Lake Project hosted the 5th Annual Middle School Eco-Meet competition on May 6 at the new Below Dam, South Carolina Park. Modeled after the high school Envirothon, the Eco-Meet brought middle school students from Georgia and South Carolina together to learn more about the environment and compete in a variety of fun and challenging hands-on activities.

The Eco-Meet challenge included topics on fire management, the great outdoors, wetlands, bird biology, pollution sources in the CSRA, and the role of hydropower in the environment. The Eco-Meet was developed by the Central Savannah River Area, Environmental Science Education Cooperative (ESEC) member organizations to generate enthusiasm and excellence in environmental education.

The 2005 Eco-Meet challenge was attended by 109 middle school students representing ten schools within Georgia and South Carolina. Awards were given to the top three teams in the overall competition, as well as the top teams in seven individual topics and activities.

Merriwether Middle School's yellow team, consisting of Josh Duncan, Megan Garland, Becca White and Coach David Garland, took first place overall. Second place overall was awarded to Westview Middle School's yellow team, consisting of Jennifer Joseph, Kara Lynch, Garrett Rapp, Parker White and Coach Susan Timmerman. Third place overall went to Davidson Fine Arts School's purple team, consisting of Ethan Lapaquette, Taylor Morgan, Mary Margaret Peebles, Autumn VonPlinsky, and Coach Amy Mealing.

The Environmental Science Education Cooperative is a local non-profit organization consisting of 24 federal, state, county and non-profit agencies within the Central Savannah River Area. The common vision of this group is to promote the Central Savannah River Area as a center for excellence in environmental science education and to provide information and access to programs for the community to become more effective environmental stewards through science education, research, technology and public outreach.

For more information contact Susan Boyd at the Corps' J. Strom Thurmond Dam and Lake Project at (864) 333-1177.

Contact:

Billy Birdwell 912-652-5014 (24 hours: 912-677-6039) billy.e.birdwell@sas02.usace.army.mil

G. Jeanne Hodge 912- 652-5770 jeanne.hodge@sas02.usace.army.mil

District Website

www.sas.usace.army.mil

News Release

www.sas.usace.army.mil/pubs.htm